

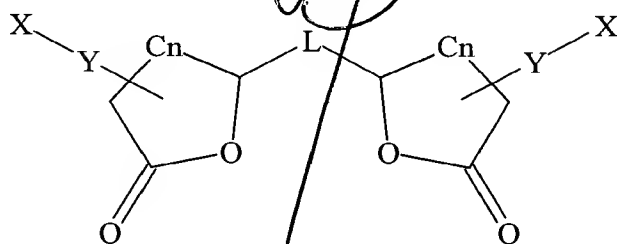
Amendments to Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A lactone composition as represented in structure I, wherein each n is independently 1 to 3;

L is either present as a substituent having two functional groups, or is a direct bond forming a spiro-bislactone, or is H wherein rings of the structure I are not connected, or is a radically polymerizable group wherein the rings of the structure are not connected;

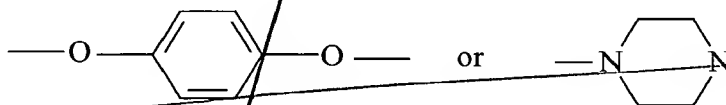
wherein Y is either present independently as alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or aryl or is a direct bond;

each X is independently a substituent having a field effect, F, between -
0.42 and +1.58

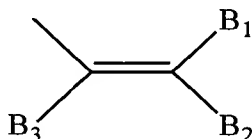


with the proviso that when L is a substituent having two functional groups,

L is not

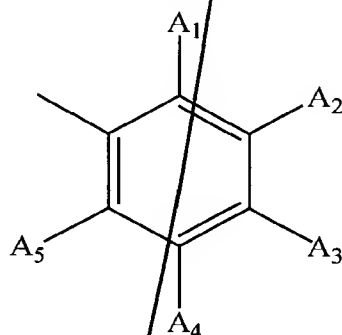


2. (Original) The lactone of Claim 1 wherein when Y is alkenyl, the alkenyl group is defined as



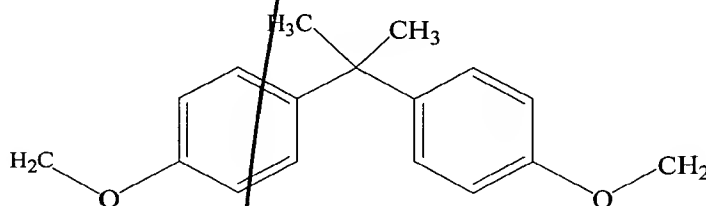
wherein B₁, B₂, and B₃ are individually a substituent group X as defined in Claim 1.

3. (Original) A lactone of Claim 1 wherein when Y is phenyl



wherein A₁, A₂, A₃, A₄, and A₅ are each independently a substituent group X as defined in Claim 1.

4. (Original) A composition of Claim 1 wherein the L substituent having two functional groups is



5. (Original) A composition of Claim 1 wherein the L substituent having two functional groups is



6. (Original) A composition of Claim 1 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of and identified with the numbers 2, 5, 15, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 40, 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 58, 62, 70, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 80, 84, 85, 90, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 122, 125, 127, 128, 133, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 148, 150, 151, 153, 156, 160, 161, 162, 163, 165, 166, 167, 168,

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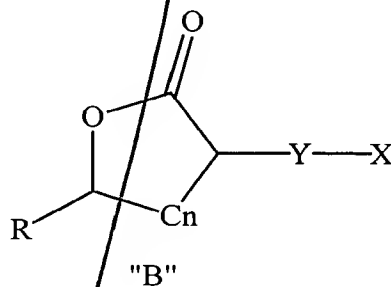
7. (Original) A composition of Claim 1 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of and identified with the numbers 2, 5, 15, 28, 32, 33, 40, 45, 49, 70, 75, 76, 78, 80, 84, 85, 90, 93, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 111, 117, 118, 119, 120, 122, 125, 127, 128, 133, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 148, 150, 151, 153, 156, 160, 161, 162, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 175, 177, 178, 179, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 193, 194, 194, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 207, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 219, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 231, 232, 233, 234, 238, 239, 240, 241, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 267, 270, 271, 272, 273, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 285, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 297, 298, 300, 303, 317, 318, 323, 325, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 345, 378, 379, 380, 384, 388, 395, 396, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 416, 417, 420, 424, 425, 433, 448, 449, 450, 453, 458, 460, 474, 475 and 512 in Table 1.

A

8. (Currently Amended) A process comprising: contacting lactones of structure B with an amine to form a hydroxy amide, wherein each Y is present independently as alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, or a direct bond to X; each X is independently a substituent having a field effect, F, between -0.42 and $+1.58$; wherein R is a branched or straight chain alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} , or an aryl group; and wherein each n is independently 1 to

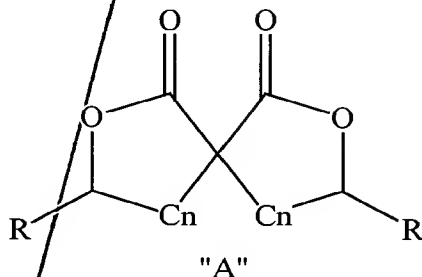
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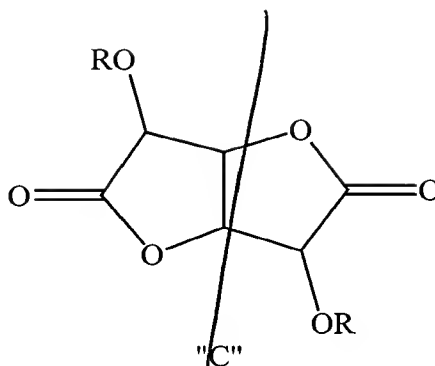
9. (Original) A process comprising: contacting a spiro-bis lactone of structure A, wherein each $n = 1$ to 3 independently and R is a branched or straight chain alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} , or an aryl group; and wherein each n is independently 1 to 3; with an amine to form a hydroxy amide

T_{1,0421}



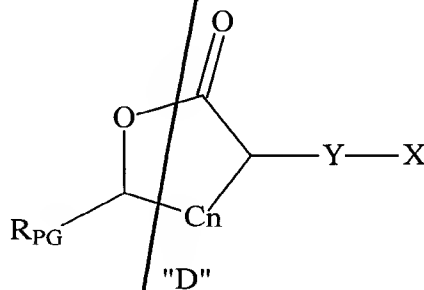
10. (Original) A process comprising: contacting a bicyclo-lactone of structure C wherein R is a branched or straight chain alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} , or an aryl group, or C(O)OE wherein E is independently alkyl or aryl, with an amine

T, 0422



11. (Currently Amended) A process comprising: contacting a polymer containing one or more lactone groups prepared from at least one lactone monomer of structure D with an amine to form a hydroxy amide, wherein each Y is present independently as alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, or a direct bond to X; each X is independently a substituent having a field effect, F, between -0.42 and +1.58; wherein R_{PG} is a radically polymerizable substituent group selected from the group consisting of styrene, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, and methacrylamide; and wherein each n is independently 1 to 3

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12. (Original) A process, comprising:
 (i) performing the steps of any one of the Claims 8, 9, 10 or 11;
 (ii) applying a product resulting from step (i) to an object surface.

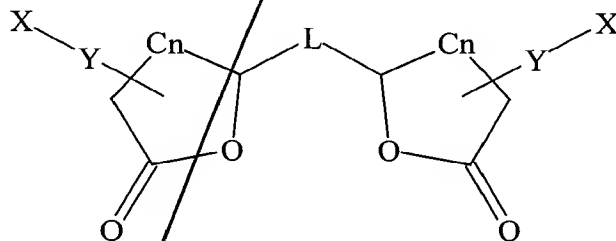
13. (Original) An article treated by the process of Claim 12.

14. (Currently Amended) A lactone composition having the structural formula I, wherein each n is independently 1 to 3;

L is either present as a substituent having two functional groups, or is a direct bond forming a spiro-bis-lactone, or is H wherein rings of the structure I are not connected, or is a radically polymerizable group wherein the rings of the structure I are not connected;

wherein Y is either present independently as alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or aryl or is a direct bond;

each X is independently a substituent having a field effect, F, between -0.42 and +1.58



I

wherein said lactone is employed as a cross-linking agent in a coating composition containing amine compound(s) that are reactive with lactone groups.

A